

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 MMS-04 M-02 SP-03 PER-05 ABF-01

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DRAFTED BY EA/LC:MHENDERSON:S/NM:DCOHEN:BB

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

EA/LC:LMRIVES

EA/LC:JB-KAHN

EA/RA:HISOM

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P 262213Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187231

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, APER, LA

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS STAFFING IN LAOS - PUBLIC SAFETY

(USAID/NAP)

REF: VIENTIANE 6143

1. IN REVIEWING MISSION RECOMMENDATION TO ELIMINATE MAJOR MCBEE'S POSITION AS PROPOSED REFTTEL PARA 4, SOME CONCERN HAS BEEN RAISED THAT WE MAY BE PREMATURELY GIVING UP AN EFFECTIVE, INVALUABLE MEMBER OF THE ENFORCEMENT TEAM.

2. MCBEE IS REPUTED TO HAVE INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF AND EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LAO NATIONAL AND MILITARY POLICE. IF THIS IS TRUE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MCBEE WOULD BE UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO ASSIST THE EMBASSY ASSESS THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE POLICE FORCES AND THE REALISTIC REQUIREMENTS FOR US ASSISTANCE.

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3. WE ALSO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE NEED TO EFFECTIVELY
MANAGE CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF EQUIPMENT ALREADY
COMMITTED FOR THE LAOS ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES BUT STILL
UNDELIVERED.

4. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO
DEA WOULD BE ABLE TO MORE FULLY DEVELOP ITS RELATIONSHIPS

WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE FORCES AND THEREBY ASSUME GREATER
RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.
IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, IT WOULD APPEAR FROM HERE
THAT MCBEE WOULD BE MOST VALUABLE TO EMBASSY FOR A
TRANSITION PERIOD BEYOND CURRENTLY SCHEDULED END OF TOUR.

5. SINCE LINES NOT DRAWN YET ON THIS PARTICULAR RECOM-
MENDATION IN REFTTEL, WE WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION'S
EARLY RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS,
IF ANY, FOR OTHER WAYS OF EMPLOYING MAJOR MCBEE'S
TALENTS. KISSINGER

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